

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the final Office Action mailed August 21, 2009 (hereinafter “Office Action”), is respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks. This Amendment is accompanied by credit card authorization to charge the \$810 fee for a request for continued examination. Although no additional fees are believed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any surplus to Deposit Account No. 14-1437.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-10, 13-20, 23, 24, and 26 were pending with claims 13 and 15-19 being drawn to an elected invention. In the Office Action, all examined claims were rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended to specify that the ridge line comprises a *line formed by an intersection of the front half and the rear half* and extends along the entire length of the contact surface. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification. *See, e.g.*, Specification, Page 23, ln. 28-32; Page 25, ln. 1-12; and Fig. 25(c).

The amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the instant application to allowance and should not be construed as an indication of Applicant’s agreement with or acquiescence to the Examiner’s position. Accordingly, Applicants expressly maintain the right to pursue broader subject matter through subsequent amendments, continuation or divisional applications, reexamination or reissue proceedings, and all other available means. The rejections and responses thereto are set forth fully below.

Request for Interview

This Amendment is accompanied by a request for an Examiner Interview. In order to expedite examination on the merits and to focus on relevant issues, Applicants respectfully request an Examiner Interview to discuss the pending rejections prior to issuance of any further Office Actions.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 13

In the Office Action, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Patent Publication 03125053 by Okamura (hereinafter “Okamura”). As amended, claim 13 is drawn to:

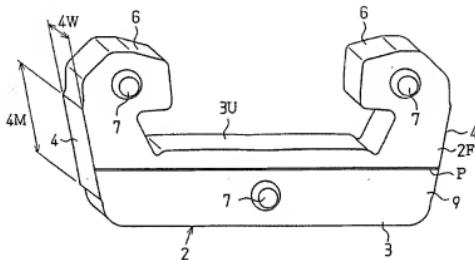
13. (Currently amended) A push block for use with a metallic belt wound between annular V-grooves of a drive pulley and a driven pulley, wherein a plurality of the push blocks are for being superimposed with one another along the longitudinal direction of the metallic belt, the push block comprising:

a side contact surface opposing inner side surfaces of the annular V-grooves of both pulleys; and

a front half of the contact surface forms an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block, and a rear half of the contact surface forms an obtuse angle with a rear surface of the push block, wherein and a ridge line comprising a line formed by an intersection of said front half and said rear half, said ridge line functioning as an oil film breaking portion for breaking an oil film, which forms on the inner side surfaces of the annular V-grooves of the pulleys, and extending extends along the entire length of the contact surface at a middle part of the contact surface in the widthwise direction, wherein the push block is formed by bending a single wire material and then performing pressing.

Of particular interest, the claimed push block includes a ridge line comprising a line formed by an intersection of the front half and the rear half that extends along the length of the contact surface. For purposes of orientation, the specification uses Figure 24 (reproduced below) to clearly define (i) 4M as the length dimension of the contact surface 4, and (ii) 4W as the width dimension of the contact surface 4. Specification, Page 23. ln. 28-32.

Fig. 24



It should also be noted that claim 13 covers the embodiment shown in cross-section in Fig. 25(c), below. For purposes of orientation, please note that front surface 2F and contact surface 4 are show in both Figure 24 and Figure 25(c).

Fig. 25
(c)

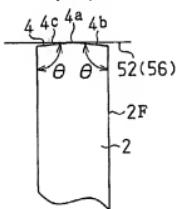


Figure 25(c) shows a cross section of the push block, showing the front half of the contact surface (4b), the rear half of the contact surface (4c), the ridge line (4a) as a line extending lengthwise (4M) along the contact surface, the front surface (2F) and the rear surface (opposite 2F, as evident from Figures 25(a) and 25(b)).

While Okamura's contact surface 50a is defined by a width and a length that can be measured, the claimed ridge line is only defined by a length. Clearly, Okamura does not disclose or suggest the claimed ridge line comprising a line formed by the intersection of the front half

and the rear half of the contact surface. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that he rejection based on Okamura be withdrawn.

Claims 15-19

Claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP Patent Publication 10213185 by Kato (hereinafter Kato"). Applicants respectfully traverse. The claimed push block, as set forth in claim 15, is drawn to:

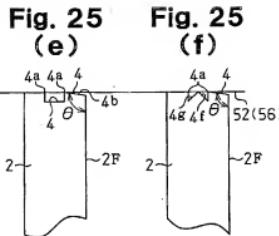
15. (Previously presented) A push block for use with a metallic belt wound between annular V-grooves of a drive pulley and a driven pulley, wherein a plurality of the push blocks are for being superimposed with one another along the longitudinal direction of the metallic belt, the push block comprising:

a side contact surface opposing inner side surfaces of the annular V-grooves of both pulleys; and

a front portion of the contact surface forming an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block, and a groove extending along the entire length of the contact surface at the middle of the contact surface, wherein an inner wall of the groove and the contact surface defines the ridge line that functions as the oil film breaking portion, which forms on the inner side surfaces of the annular V-grooves of the pulleys, wherein the push block is formed by bending a single wire material and then performing pressing.

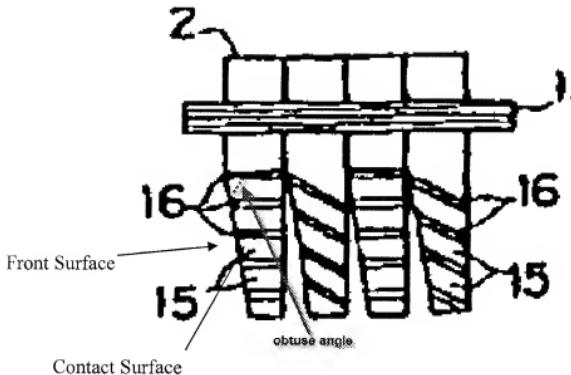
Of particular interest, the claimed push block includes a groove extending along the entire length of the contact surface at the middle of the contact surface. The inner wall of the groove and the contact surface defines a ridge line that functions as the oil film breaking portion. In addition, a front portion (4b) of the contact surface forming an obtuse angle with a front surface (2F) of the push block.

Examples of this embodiment are shown in cross-section in Figures 25(e) and 25(f).



For purposes of orientation, it should be noted that front surface 2F and contact surface 4 are shown in Figure 24 and Figures 25(e) and 25(f), above. In addition, the groove, which is shown in cross-section in Figures 25(e) and 25(f) extends along the length, i.e., 4M in Figure 24, of the contact surface and is located in the middle of the contact surface.

The Office Action asserts that Figure 7 of Kato discloses the claimed obtuse angle and the groove (see below).

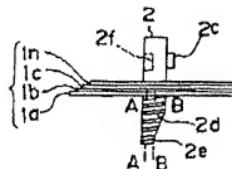


From Figure 7, it is clear that any grooves disclosed by Kato extend in the width direction, not the length direction. However, Figure 3 and 4 are even more useful to show the geometry of the push blocks in Kato. In particular, Figure 3 shows an individual push block and

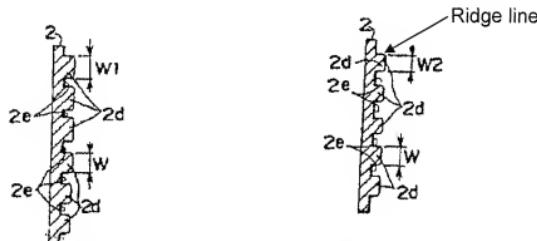
Figure 4 shows cross-sectional views taken along cut lines A-A and B-B, which extend in the length-wise direction of the contact surfaces.

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, Kato discloses an alternating arrangement of projections 2d (i.e., the contact surface) and grooves 2e. The projections 2d and the grooves 2e extend along the width-wise or travel direction of the push block.

[図3]



[図4]



(A-A 線拡大断面図)

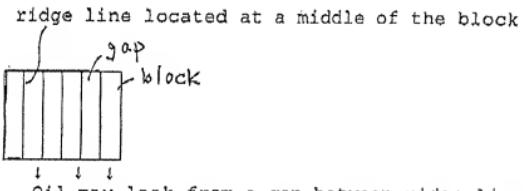
(B-B 線拡大断面図)

The Office Action asserts that groove 2e in Kato is a groove that extends along the entire length of the contact surface at the middle of the contact surface. However, Figures 3 and 4 of

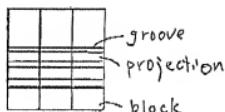
Kato demonstrate that the groove (2e) in Kato extends diagonally in the width direction and clearly, Kato does not disclose a ridge line that extends along the entire length of the contact surface because A-A and B-B of Figure 4 are cross sections taken along the length direction and 2e does not extend along the entire length of cut lines A-A or B-B.

Furthermore, from the Kato figures, it is impossible to tell whether the front portion of the contact surface forms an obtuse angle with a front surface of the push block. In addition, as shown below, if a plurality of blocks are arranged along the travel direction and are brought into close contact with each other, oil will not efficiently drain from the adjacent push blocks, shown below. In contrast, the claimed ridge line is oriented perpendicular to the travel direction of the push block, which enables oil to drain even when adjacent push blocks are in close contact. This is a substantial improvement over Kato.

Claimed blocks
→ travel direction



Kato's blocks
- travel direction



Oil may not leak from between adjacent blocks due to close contact of adjacent blocks.

U.S. Application No.: 10/569,848

Amendment B

Attorney Docket: 2000-29

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In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants would respectfully request that the rejection based on Kato be withdrawn.

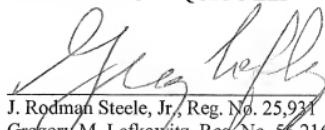
As neither Okamura nor Kato disclose or suggest each element of the claimed push blocks, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections based on Okamura and Kato be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, the independent claims are believed to be allowable. In addition, the dependent claims are believed to be allowable due to their dependence on an allowable base claim and for further features recited therein. The application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. If any issues remain outstanding, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned (561-847-7806) if it is believed that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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